

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 15, 1949 SS-81

## Crop Prospects Continue Favorable

Prospects for total all-crop volume continue next to the highest in history, exceeded only by last year's record.

## Some Crops Down, Others Up; Aggregate Slightly Down

Some crops are down from month ago; others up. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, and flaxseed declined. Corn, hay, rice, and fruit improved. Aggregate of all crops now appears about 30 percent above the '23-32 average and down only a little from prospects month ago.

## Wheat Indicated at 1.1 Billion Bushels

All wheat is indicated at 1.1 billion bushels compared with 1.2 billions July 1. (Winter 895 million bushels compared with 932 million month ago; Spring 237 million bushels compared with 257 million month ago.) All wheat in '48 totaled nearly 1.3 billion bushels; '38-47 average, less than a billion (992 million) bushels.

## Oats Forecast at 1.3 Billion Bushels

Oats are indicated at 1.3 billion bushels. Nearly 1.4 billion bushels were indicated a month ago. Production last year, 1.5 billion; 10-year average, 1.2 billion.

## Smaller Crops of Barley and Rye

Barley crop will total about 232.8 million bushels compared with prospects for 244.1 million month ago. Production last year, 317 million; 10-year average 304.7 million.

Rye crop is indicated at 18.8 million bushels compared with 19.7 million month ago. Production last year was 26.4 million; average 35.1 million bushels.

## Flaxseed Crop Also Smaller

About 41.9 million bushels of flaxseed are expected to be produced compared with 52.5 million last year and the 10-year average of 30.1 million bushels.

## Corn Prospects Better Than Month Ago

Corn is now indicated at 3,538,257,000 bushels. This is up a little from the 3,530,185,000 in prospect a month ago. Crop last year totaled 3,650,548,000 bushels; average, 2,787,628,000.

## Hay Crop Improves by Quarter Million Tons

All hay is indicated at nearly 98 million tons compared with about 97.7 million a month ago. Last year's crop totaled 99.8 million tons; 10-year average, 99.5 million.

## Rice Prospects Up 2 Million Bushels Since July --May Top Last Year's Crop by 7 Million Bushels

A rice crop of 88.2 million bushels is in prospect compared with the 86 million indicated in July. Last year's crop totaled 81.2 million bushels; average, 62.9 million.

## Cotton Forecast 14.8 Million Bales Big Crops in Texas and California

This year's cotton crop is forecast at 14,805,000 bales. This is 63 thousand bales, or four-tenths of one percent, less than last year's production, despite a 14-percent acreage increase. '38-47 average is 11,306,000 bales. Heavy boll weevil infestation and unfavorable weather in Central and Eastern States more than offset unusually favorable prospects in Texas and far Western cotton States. Forecast for Texas, 4,450,000 bales--up 1.3 million from last year. California, 1,300,000 bales, first year for that State to exceed 1 million bales and to reach fourth place in cotton production.

## Other States Where Cotton Is Produced (This Year's Forecasts With Comparisons)

Miss. 1,600,000 bales; 2,353,000 last year; 1,588,000 average  
Ark. 1,650,000 bales; 1,982,000 last year; 1,329,000 average  
Ala. 960,000 bales; 1,197,000 last year; 901,000 average  
Mo. 475,000 bales; 506,000 last year; 356,000 average  
Va. 25,000 bales; 24,000 last year; 22,000 average  
N. C. 570,000 bales; 678,000 last year; 549,000 average

S. C.	725,000 bales;	871,000 last year;	716,000 average
Ga.	570,000 bales;	745,000 last year;	779,000 average
Fla.	18,000 bales;	15,000 last year;	14,000 average
Tenn.	650,000 bales;	670,000 last year;	523,000 average
La.	625,000 bales;	756,000 last year;	528,000 average
Okla.	410,000 bales;	374,000 last year;	521,000 average
N. Mex.	310,000 bales;	236,000 last year;	119,000 average
Ariz.	450,000 bales;	328,000 last year;	174,000 average
Other	17,000 bales;	15,000 last year;	16,000 average

## World Cotton Estimates ('48-49 Season)

Global production of cotton is estimated by the International Cotton Advisory Committee at 28.7 million bales; consumption 27.7 million. This adds 1 million bales to the carryover. At 15 million bales on August 1, carryover is less than two-thirds the carryover on August 1, '39.

## Cottonseed May Reach Nearly 6 Million Tons

Based on previous experience (ratio of lint to cottonseed past 5 years) production of cottonseed would be about 5,962,000 tons. Last year's production, 5,941,000; 10-year average, 4,631,000 tons. No official estimate until release of final ginnings next May.

## Record Feed Supplies

Total feed supplies are expected to be the largest on record. Supplies per animal unit will be the most liberal in history, even though livestock to be fed will exceed the number fed during the 3 preceding seasons and during any season prior to '41. Large carryovers of corn, oats, and barley. Add to this, the bumper corn crop, and the heavy total of other feed grains expected from this year's crops.

## More Livestock on Feed

Livestock on feed for the '49-50 season will be more than the number fed in the 3 preceding seasons. And more will be fed than in any season prior to World War II. Cattle on feed in the Corn Belt, up 24 percent from last August. Increase indicated at 255,000 head.

## Tobacco Crop Larger Than Last Year Tho Prospects Declined During Past Month

Tobacco production prospects declined a little in July. Indicated production August 1 was 2,019 million pounds compared with 2,025 million July 1. Production last year was 1,982 million pounds; 10-year average, 1,718 million.

Flue-cured is estimated at 1,161 million pounds compared with 1,090 million pounds produced last year. Prospects are better for early-maturing than for the later maturing types.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	June 15 1949	July 15 1949	July 15 1949
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	1.86	1.82	2.16
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.21	1.25	1.57
Oats, bu. ....dol.	.601	.583	.974
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	10.4	10.4	11.7
Cotton, lb. .... ct.	30.13	30.08	30.26
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	1.75	1.55	1.79
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	18.80	19.30	17.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.90	20.00	13.20
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	23.40	22.40	16.50
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	24.40	22.80	14.30
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	1/64.7	1/63.1	64.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	1 1/2 4.03	1 1/2 4.00	3.90
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	26.1	24.3	27.8
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	1/50.1	1/47.2	52.5

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation  
2/ Revised.



### Milk Per Capita, Only 2.5 Pounds Per Day --10-Year Average for July Has Been 2.7 Pounds

The 11.5 billion pounds of milk produced in July was about the same as in July last year, but was smaller than in any other July since '44. Milk per cow was record high for the month, but number of cows was the lowest for the month in about 20 years. Milk produced per capita, per day, averaged 2.5 pounds. This was down a little from July last year and well under the 10-year average for the month of 2.7 pounds. But more milk was produced from January through July this year than for the 7-month period last year...72.5 billion pounds compared with 70.9 billion.

### Egg Production Nearly Same As Last Year

Farm flocks laid 4.3 billion eggs in July, down 2 percent from July last year but up 7 percent from average. Layers on hand were down only a little from a year ago. Rate of lay was down a little. Eggs produced first 7 months this year totaled 36.7 billion, nearly the same as for the 7-month period last year.

### Feeding More Favorable for Eggs and Turkeys

Egg-feed and turkey-feed price ratios were more favorable than a year ago. Chicken feed ratio, less favorable than a year ago. Poultry ration mid-July cost \$3.45 per 100 pounds. Same time last year it was \$4.40. Egg prices in July were practically as high as a year ago with feed nearly a fifth less.

### Relatively Small Crop of Peanuts

For the first time in 8 years the peanut crop is expected to fall below 2 billion pounds. Production is now forecast at 1,777 million pounds, down 4 percent from 10-year average and down 24 percent from last year's record crop. Acreage is down.

### Favorable Crops of Sugar Beets and Sugar Cane

About 9.8 million tons of sugar beets are in prospect. Compares with 9.4 million tons harvested last year and 10.1 million tons average. Sugar cane for sugar and seed is indicated at about 8 million tons. Last year's crop was 6.8 million tons and the small hurricane damaged crop of '47 was only 5.3 million tons. Per-acre yield this year expected to be 23.2 tons; 10-year average, 19.9 tons.

### Raw Sugar May Exceed 2 Million Tons

Based on past experience, 1,460,000 tons of raw sugar should be produced this year from sugar beets and 565,000 tons from sugar cane, or a total of 2,025,000 tons. Last year only 1,369,000 tons were produced from beets and 477,000 tons from cane.

### Summer Vegetables Down From Last Year; Up From Average

Summer vegetables and melons will be about 5 percent less than in '48 despite a little larger acreage. Tonnage, however, will be above average.

### For Processing Down About 10 Percent

Four important processing vegetables--snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and tomatoes--will total about 4.2 million tons, down about 10 percent from last year's production and 2 percent from average. These 4 vegetables usually make up 85 to 90 percent of total processing vegetables.

### 17 Percent More Deciduous Fruits Than Last Year

Prospects improved last month for apples, pears, and grapes. Apple crop is largest since '39 and up from last year by 45 percent. Peach crop is up from last year by 15 percent, pears 30, cherries 7, plums 37, prunes 8. Grape tonnage is near the large '48 tonnage. Apricots are 13 percent below '48. All deciduous fruit indicated at 10 million tons. Will be about 17 percent above last year and 11 percent above average production.

### Tree Nuts An All-Time Record

The 4 principal tree nuts are expected to reach a total of 203,000 tons. This is up 2 percent from last year's big total thus exceeding all previous records. Walnuts, almonds, and filberts are each record crops; pecans about a fifth below the record '48 tonnage.

### Cranberry Crop Average or Better

Cranberry crop probably will be smaller than last year's record crop. At least an average crop now indicated. Forecast by States to be issued August 23.

### New Citrus About Average

New citrus crops are about average in Florida and Arizona; California oranges, near average, lemons a fourth below; Texas grapefruit and orange crops, reported very short.

### Potato Crop A Fifth Below Last Year

Irish potato production, based on harvestings to date and condition of growing crop, is estimated at 362.5 million bushels. Production last year, 445.8 million. 10-year average, 393.4 million. Per-acre yield this year of 191 bushels would be second only to last year's record yield of 212 bushels per acre.

Late States crop will total about 276.1 million bushels compared with 344.2 million last year and 304.5 million average.

### Sweetpotato Crop Up 4 Percent

Sweetpotatoes, indicated at 51.9 million bushels, will be up 4 percent from last year's crop; down from average 18 percent.

### Dry Peas Improved But Crop Still Small

Prospects for dry peas improved during July. But crop is still small. Estimate is 3,256,000 bags. '48 crop was 3,584,000; 10-year average, 5,620,000 bags (100 lbs.)

### Prices Received Down 3 Points; Paid 1 Point

Index of prices received by farmers at mid-July was down 3 points from mid-June while prices paid index--including interest and taxes--was down only 1 point. Prices received are now down 58 index points from the record high. On the other hand, prices paid are down only 7 points from record high.

Farmers got lower prices for cattle, wheat, potatoes and apples offsetting slightly higher prices for such items as hay, feed grains, dairy products, hogs, eggs and turkeys. Building materials were down. Retail prices of lumber and other building materials used by farmers were down 2 percent from mid-June and down 6 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Receipts Down 10 Percent, January-July

Farmers' receipts from marketings, January through July, were about 10 percent less than for the same period last year. Receipts from Livestock and products, about 8.5 billion dollars, were down 13 percent. Crop receipts, about 5.3 billion dollars, were down 5 percent. Of the livestock items, receipts from meat animals were down 15 percent; dairy receipts, 18 percent; poultry and eggs, little change from a year earlier.

### Farm Employment Down From a Year Ago

Persons at work on U. S. farms last of July totaled 11.8 million compared with 12.1 million year ago. A small decline from a year ago was found in both hired laborers and farm family workers. But from June to July this year there was a seasonal increase of about 400 thousand in hired farm workers while farm family labor declined seasonally more than 600 thousand.

### Farm Wages Down a Little

Farm wage rates were down a little from a year ago...per hour without board or room, 74 cents compared with 78 cents last year. Composite rate (weighted average of all farm wage rates, per hour basis) was 56 cents compared with 57 cents per hour a year ago.

### Nation's Jobless Now Exceeds 4 Million

Total U. S. civilian employment is down 1.9 million workers from a year ago and the number without work is up 1.9 million. Total employed in July was 59.7 million compared with the record high of 61.6 million in July last year. Number out of work in July totaled 4.1 million compared with 2.2 million a year earlier. But the 59.7 million employed this July is up one-tenth million from June.

### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	July 1949
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	249
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	244
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	102
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	255
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 264
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 425
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	3/ 474
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-July 1948	Jan.-July 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	70.9	72.5
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	36.8	36.7
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 3114	4/ 3447
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 312	4/ 248
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	4/ 4594	4/ 4816
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 8356	4/ 8836

- 1/ July figure.
- 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.
- 3/ Revised May figure.
- 4/ January-June.